

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 COLOMB 01506 031154Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05  
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /080 W  
-----084922 040236Z /65

R 031100Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9964  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
USINT HAVANA  
USLO PEKING

S E C R E T COLOMBO 1506

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, CE, VR, CU, CZ

SUBJ: COMMENTS ON SRI LANKA COMMUNIST PARTY'S TENTH CONGRESS

1. THE EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR RAFIK NIS-HANOV SAID THAT THE TENTH CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN SRI LANKA WAS BEING ACTIVELY SUPPORTED BY THE USSR AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES TO HELP BUILD LOCAL PARTY MORALE AND TO ASSIST IN ANALYZING WEAKNESSES IN THE PARTY'S STRUCTURE AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.
2. CUBAN AMBASSADOR ANA MARIA GONZALEZ SUAREZ AND CZECHOSLOVAKIAN AMBASSADOR JAROMIR SEDLAK IN COMMENTING ON CONGRESS SAID THEY WERE PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS OF THE TALKS AT THE COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS. AMBASSADOR SEDLAK REMARKED THAT UNLESS THE SRI LANKAN COMMUNIST PARTY RECRUITS YOUTHS FROM RURAL AREAS AND HELPS THE PEASANTS UNDERSTAND THE DOCTRINE OF COMMUNISM, SRI LANKAN COMMUNISM WILL REMAIN DORMANT. AMBASSADOR SUAREZ SAID THAT THE SRI LANKAN COMMUNIST PARTY CANNOT BE AN ACTIVE, POTENT PARTY UNLESS THE PARTY LEADERSHIP CAN

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FORGET PARLIAMENTARY POLITICS FOR THE PRESENT AND CONCENTRATE ON THE EDUCATION OF SELECTED URBAN AND RURAL YOUTHS.

3. A MEMBER OF THE CP POLITBUREAU REPORTED THAT A SERIOUS INTERNAL DIVISION HAD OCCURRED WITHIN THE PARTY DURING THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS. THE DIVISION WAS BETWEEN THE "OLD GUARD" LED BY PIETER KEUNEMAN AND THE YOUNGER, MORE RADICAL,

ELEMENTS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, MANY OF WHOM ARE ALLEGED TO BE FORMER MEMBERS OF THE JANATHA VIMUKTI PERAMUNA PARTY. THE DISSENSION CENTERED ON THE PARTY'S FUTURE PLANS AND PROGRAMS. ALTHOUGH THE DIVISION WITHIN THE PARTY HAD BEEN "PAPERED OVER", PIETER KEUNEMAN REMAINS ISOLATED FROM THE SUPPORT OF THE YOUNGER PARTY MEMBERS.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE USSR, CUBA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, MONGOLIA, IRAQ, POLAND, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, HUNGARY, BULGARIA, YUGOSLAVIA, ROMANIA, AND INDIA SENT DELEGATES TO THE CONGRESS. WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY MESSAGES FROM THE PRC.

5. COMMENT: CP MORALE AS AMBASSADOR NISHANOV NOTES DOES INDEED NEED A BOOST. IN THE 1977 ELECTION, THE CP FOR THE FIRST TIME FAILED TO WIN A SINGLE SEAT IN PARLIAMENT.  
LEVIN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, PARTY MEETINGS, COMMUNISTS  
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